

CHINESE ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. In addition to the enactment of the antiseccession law, China's rapid military build-up has given the Taiwanese people a sense of dread. China's deploying more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates China still stubbornly clings to a military solution of the Taiwan issue. In response to China's provocative actions, we need to emphasize that military intimidation over Taiwan is no solution to the cross strait relations.

China must learn to respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want to be masters of their own land. China has no right to change the status quo either through the antiseccession law or military intimidation. In the meantime, China must not block Taiwan's attempts in gaining international recognition or in returning to international organizations. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated properly and with respect by the international community.

President Chen is a man of peace who does not seek to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. He has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo on many occasions. In the last 6 years, he has kept his pledges and offered many goodwill gestures to China. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. Let's hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resume dialogue on an equal footing and without preconditions.

RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILY
VICTIMS OF HURRICANE
KATRINA ACT OF 2006**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, last year the United States laid eyes on one of the greatest natural disasters to ever hit our Nation. Hurricane Katrina ravaged a large part of our country, our economy, and, as a nation, our spirit. Last year Congress committed aid to the victims of this tragedy which the President signed into law. But our work and our commitment to the people of the gulf coast region cannot end there. If we turn our backs on those victims, we will only be subjecting them to another disaster, that of a government which isn't willing to support its own people.

In the months following the hurricane, news and media coverage were filled with photos and video of the effects of abject poverty leaving people in dire straits. Yet today, a short 4 months later, the faces of Katrina have all but disappeared from magazine covers or the nightly news. Make no mistake that the victims are still victims, and the journey back to rebuilding whole communities and lives is a long and difficult road.

To that end, I take pride in introducing, with my esteemed colleagues Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO, Congressman BILL JEFFERSON, Congressman RAHM EMANUEL, and Congressman CHARLIE MELANCON, the Relief for Working Family Victims of Hurricane Katrina Act of 2006. At present, thousands of families that suffered through the hurricane remain far from their homes and without adequate recourse or resources to help return their lives to normal. Over 900,000 children in the States effected by Hurricane Katrina were ineligible for the refundable child tax credit because their parents earned income level was too low, often by the smallest of margins. Current law restricts the refundable credit to families with income levels over \$11,000, and more if the families have more than one child. This bill would allow working families earning \$10,000 a year, just about minimum wage, to claim the full credit. I am joined in these efforts by my good friend, Senator BARACK OBAMA, who is introducing companion legislation in the Senate today.

Relief like this can carry a family miles down the road to rebuilding their lives. Congress must uphold its commitment to the victims of the hurricane. President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, remarked that, "In New Orleans and in other places, many of our fellow citizens have felt excluded from the promise of our country." It's sad that it took an epic disaster to open America's eyes to the lives of the impoverished and marginalized. The greater tragedy is if we do nothing about it.

SMALL VERMONT SCHOOL WINS
NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN THE
ARTS**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak today about an extraordinary achievement by the teachers, administration and students of a small school in Vermont.

The Robinson Elementary School of Starksboro was one of five schools in the Nation chosen to receive this year's "Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award." The Creative Ticket School Awards provides national recognition "of the role individual schools play in providing a creative learning environment for outstanding student achievement" by recognizing "schools that have developed exemplary arts education programs."

The arts are a vital part of education, by connecting us through words and images and sounds to our past, by connecting us to one another in a vibrant human community, and by helping us to imagine a future where none are isolated or lonely or without hope. The wonderful work done at Robinson Elementary School is testimony that the arts are alive and flourishing—not just in, but especially, in the small towns of Vermont. And most especially, in Starksboro, a town of just under 2,000 residents.

This award is testimony to the inspired teaching which takes place at Robinson Elementary School, where art, drama, music and writing are integrated into the school curriculum. In particular, let me single out Vera Ryersbach, the art teacher at Robinson Elementary.

And of course I want to single out the students, for schools exist for their students, and the success of any program is measured by how hard and eagerly students pursue their studies. Twenty-five of the students at the 142-student school will be going to the Kennedy Center to perform on the Millennium Stage this coming March. But before that, there will be a community dance celebration in Starksboro, so all the students and community members can share in this great achievement.

Congratulations, too, to Robinson's principal Dan Noël, and to the supporting group for this endeavor, the Vermont Alliance for Arts Education and Anne Tyler, VAAE's executive director, and Elizabeth Miller, VAAE chair.

THANKING DAN HORNAK FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Mr. Dan Hornak for 20 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Prior to his arrival in Washington, Dan graduated from Western Michigan University, taught elementary school, worked as a sheriff's deputy in Michigan, and was a television news cameraman. He joined the House Recording Studio staff in 1986 as a camera operator. Through the years he built a reputation as a team player dedicated to serving the Members of the House. He rose to the position of television director and enjoyed its challenges.

Dan has used his creativity to improve the Members' awareness of the Recording Studio services. His resourcefulness for completing special studio projects has become legendary. He has said that the greatest perk of his job has been working in the Capitol, learning its history and sharing it with others. Dan has made a point of knowing as many people working in the Capitol and in the House office buildings as possible, and he considers each of them to be his friend.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Dan for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF ST.
BARNABAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN
CHICAGO**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor: Sarah Bush, Laura Carroll, Eileen Cullina, Sara Kochanny, Meghan McArdle, Alexandra Nine, Jessica Perazzolo, and Patrick Vogt, all students of St. Barnabas Catholic School in Chicago. These students, competing against students from sixteen other schools, placed first in the Chicago Region of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. They will compete at the national level in Washington, DC from February 18–22.